correct copy of A.B. 217L which was filed of record on APR 2 1979

and referred to the committee on:

Betty Murray

Chief Clerk of the House

FILED APR 2 1979

By Raina

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H.B. No. 2176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. CREATION. The County Court at Law of Medina County is created on the date determined by Section 10 of this Act.

SECTION 2. JURISDICTION. (a) The County Court at Law of Medina County has jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings, civil and criminal, juvenile and probate, original and appellate, prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state for county courts, and its jurisdiction is current with the jurisdiction of the County Court of Medina County. It does not have jurisdiction over causes and proceedings concerning roads, bridges, and public highways and the general administration of county business which is now within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners Court of Medina County.

- (b) The County Court at Law of Medina County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$5,000, exclusive of interest, as provided by general law.
- (c) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County Court at Law of Medina County by the other provisions of this Act, the county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts in Medina County in suits and causes involving

family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of 3 property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter 5 incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent 6 actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal 7 support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent 8 actions involving controversies between parent and child and 9 between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not 10 diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Medina County, 11 and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the 12 jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts. 13

(d) The county court at law, or its judge, has the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, certiorari, supersedeas, and all writs necessary for the enforcement of the jurisdiction of the court. It may issue writs of habeas corpus in cases where the offense charged is within the jurisdiction of the court or of any other court of inferior jurisdiction in the county. The court and judge have the power to punish for contempt as prescribed by law for county courts. judge of the county court at law has all other powers, duties, immunities, and privileges provided by law for county court judges, except that such judge of the county court at law shall in no way have any authority over the administrative business of Medina County which is now performed by the county judge of Medina County. SECTION 3. TERMS. The county court at law shall hold two

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continuous terms which commence on the first Monday in January and on the first Monday in July of each year. Each term of court

3 continues until the next succeeding term begins.

SECTION 4. JUDGE. (a) The judge of the county court at law shall be a qualified voter in Medina County, shall have been a resident of Medina County for two years, and shall be a licensed attorney in this state who has been actively engaged in the practice of law or has been a judge of a court in this state, or both combined, for four years prior to the judge's appointment or election.

- (b) When this court is created, the governor shall appoint a judge to the county court at law, who shall serve until the next general election after he or she takes office, and until his or her successor is elected and has qualified. Beginning at the general election in 1982 and every fourth year thereafter, there shall be elected by the qualified voters of Medina County a judge of the county court at law for a regular term of four years as provided by Article V, Section 30, and Article XVI, Section 65, of the Texas Constitution.
- (c) After the initial appointment, a vacancy occurring in the office of the judge of the county court at law shall be filled by the Commissioners Court of Medina County, and the appointee shall hold office until the next general election and until his or her successor is elected and has qualified.
- 25 (d) The judge of the county court at law shall execute a 26 bond and take the oath of office prescribed by law for county 27 judges. The judge may be removed from office in the same manner

and for the same causes as a county judge.

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- salary to be set by the commissioners court and to be paid out of the county treasury by the commissioners court. The salary shall be paid in equal monthly installments. The judge of the county court at law shall be entitled to traveling expenses and necessary office expenses, including administrative and clerical help, in the same manner as is allowed the county judge. The judge of the county court at law shall assess the same fees as are now prescribed or may be established by law, relating to the county judge's fees, all of which shall be collected by the clerk of the court and shall be paid into the county treasury on collection, and no part of which shall be paid to the judge.
 - (f) A special judge of the county court at law with the same qualifications as the regular judge may be appointed or elected in the manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special county judge. If a judge of the county court at law is disqualified to try a case pending in his or her court, the parties or their attorneys may agree on the selection of a special judge for the case. A special judge is entitled to the same rate of compensation as the regular judge.

SECTION 5. PERSONNEL. (a) The county attorney, county clerk, and sheriff of Medina County shall serve as county attorney, clerk, and sheriff, respectively, for the county court at law, except that the district clerk of Medina County shall serve as clerk of the county court at law in cases enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act and shall establish a separate docket for the

- county court at law. These officials, either personally or by the appointment of a deputy or assistant, shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their office and are entitled to the compensation, fees, and allowances prescribed by law for their respective offices. The commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the court.
- (b) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter who shall have the same qualifications and whose duties shall in every respect be as provided by law for official court reporters. The official court reporter is entitled to the compensation fixed by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.
 - SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF CASES AND JUDGES. (a) As soon as practicable after this court is created, the county clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the county court, and shall transfer those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act, and the district clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the district courts of Medina County and may transfer a sufficient number of those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act to equalize the dockets. Equalization of case load shall be the primary objective in establishing the initial case docket for the county court at law.
- 25 (b) The judge of the county court and the judge of the 26 county court at law may transfer cases to and from the dockets of 27 their respective courts, in matters within their jurisdiction, in

- order that the business may be equally distributed between them.

 All cases of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of

 this Act may be instituted in or transferred between the district

 courts of Medina County and the County Court at Law of Medina

 County. However, no case may be transferred from one court to

 another without the consent of the judge of the court to which it

 is transferred, and no case may be transferred unless it is within

 the jurisdiction of the court to which it is transferred.
 - of this section to the county court at law, and in cases transferred to any of the courts in Medina County by order of the judge of another court, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued or made in the cases shall be returned to and filed in the court to which the transfer is made. All bonds executed and recognizances entered into in those cases shall bind the parties for their appearance or to fulfill the obligations of the bonds or recognizances at the terms of the court to which the cases are transferred as fixed by law. All processes issued or returned before transfer of the cases, as well as all bonds and recognizances taken before transfer, shall be valid and binding as though originally issued out of the court to which the transfer is made.
 - (d) The county judge and the judge of the county court at law may freely exchange benches and courtrooms with each other in matters within their jurisdiction so that if one is ill, disqualified, or otherwise absent, the other may hold court for him or her without the necessity of transferring the case involved.

Either judge may hear all or any part of a case pending in the county court or county court at law, but only in matters within their jurisdiction, and may rule and enter orders on and continue, determine, or render judgment on all or any part of the case without the necessity of transferring it to his or her own docket. However, a judge may not sit or act in a case unless it is within the jurisdiction of his or her court. Each judgment and order shall be entered in the minutes of the court in which the case is pending. The provisions providing for the exchange of benches by and between the judges are cumulative of and in addition to the provisions herein provided for the selection and appointment of a special judge of the county court at law.

SECTION 7. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. (a) Practice in the county court at law shall conform to that prescribed by general law for county courts, except that practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in the county court at law involving those matters of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and the laws and rules pertaining to district courts, general or special, as well as county courts. If a case enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

- (b) The laws which govern the drawing, selection, service, and pay of jurors for county courts apply to the county court at law.
 - (c) Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district

- 1 court or courts may, on request of either the county judge or the
- 2 judge of the county court at law, be made available and shall serve
- 3 for the week in either the county court or county court at law.
- 4 SECTION 8. COURTROOM. The commissioners court shall furnish
- 5 and equip a suitable courtroom and office space for the court
- 6 created by this Act.
- 7 SECTION 9. SEAL. The seal of the court created by this Act
- 8 shall be the same as that provided by law for county courts, except
- 9 the seal shall contain the words "County Court at Law of Medina
- 10 County."
- 11 SECTION 10. DATE OF CREATION. The County Court at Law of
- 12 Medina County is created on January 1, 1980, or on a date
- determined by the commissioners court by an order entered on its
- 14 minutes, whichever date is earlier.
- 15 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation
- and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
- 17 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
- 18 constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several
- days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended,
- 20 and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its
- 21 passage, and it is so enacted.

Hondo Anvil Herald

Hondo, Texas 78861

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

The State of Texas)
County of Medina)

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day did personally appear Burnis K. Lawrence, a person known to me, who on his oath stated that he is the publisher of the Hondo Anvil Herald, a newspaper published in Medina County, Texas, and which newspaper is of general circulation and has been published for more than twelve (12) months prior to the insertion of the attached notice, and that he knows the facts stated in this affidavit.

That the attached printed matter is a true and correct copy of the publication of the notice of which it purports to be a true copy, as the same appeared in such newspaper in the respective issues of:

H ondo Anvil Herald

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That the charge of such

Burnis K. Lawrence, Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to be-

fore me on this the

day of March , 197 9.
Elizabeth Harry Public

Medina County, Texas

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 57, Constitution of Texas; notice is hereby given that Don Rains shall apply to the 1979 Regular Session of the 66th Legislature of the State of Texas for the passage of a local law relating to the creation of the County Court-at-Law of MedinaCounty.

State Representative
Don Rains
District 45
Pub. Feb. 28, 1979

Office State



County Judge

Hondo, Texas 78861

NOTICE

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 57, of the Texas Constitution, notice is hereby given that in the 1979 regular session of the 66th Legislature of the State of Texas, passage of a local law will be sought relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County.

PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 3, SECTION 57, CONSTI-TUTION OF TEXAS. Notice is hereby given that Don Rains shall apply to the 1979 regular session of the 66th Legislation of the State of Texas for the passage of a local law relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County. (47-1tc) State Representative Don Rains Dist. 45

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF MEDINA

personally Appeared Menture Residuation and who after being by me duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Editor and Publisher of The Devine News, which is a newspaper of general circulation in Medina County, Texas, published in the City of Devine, Texas, and that he published a true copy of the notice attached hereto in said paper on the following dates:

	of	mar	19	79	. of	19
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Charlie St Gr. Sa.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this, the day of

Notary Public in and for Medina County, Texas

Public Notice

Pursuant to Article 3.
Section 57, Constitution of Texas, notice is hereby given that Don Rains shall apply to the 1979 regular session of the 66th Legislative of the State of Texas for the passage of a local law relating to creation of the County Court at law of Medina County.

State Representative
Don Rains
District 45

(SEAL)

R. & Don Rains State Rep Khot 45

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT



1st. Printing

By Rains

H.B. No. 2176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. CREATION. The County Court at Law of Medina
5	County is created on the date determined by Section 10 of this Act.
6	SECTION 2. JURISDICTION. (a) The County Court at Law of
7	Medina County has jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings,
8	civil and criminal, juvenile and probate, original and appellate,
9	prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state for
10	county courts, and its jurisdiction is concurrent with the
11	jurisdiction of the County Court of Medina County. It does not
12	have jurisdiction over causes and proceedings concerning roads,
13	bridges, and public highways and the general administration of
14	county business which is now within the jurisdiction of the
15	Commissioners Court of Medina County.
16	(b) The County Court at Law of Medina County has
17	jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain
18	cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds
19	\$500 and does not exceed \$5,000, exclusive of interest, as provided
20	by general law.

(c) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County Court at Law of Medina County by the other provisions of this Act, the county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts in Medina County in suits and causes involving

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family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal of disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent actions involving controversies between parent and child and between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Medina County, and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts.

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The county court at law, or its judge, has the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, certiorari, supersedeas, and all writs necessary for the enforcement of the jurisdiction of the court. It may issue writs of habeas corpus in cases where the offense charged is within jurisdiction of the court or of any other court of inferior jurisdiction in the county. The court and judge have the power punish for contempt as prescribed by law for county courts. juage of the county court at law has all other powers, duties, immunities, and privileges provided by law for county court judges, except that such judge of the county court at law shall in no way have any authority over the administrative business of Medina County which is now performed by the county judge of Medina County. SECTION 3. TERMS. The county court at law shall hold two

continuous terms which commence on the first Monday in January and
on the first Monday in July of each year. Each term of court
continues until the next succeeding term begins.

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- SECTION 4. JUDGE. (a) The judge of the county court at law shall be a qualified voter in Medina County, shall have been a resident of Medina County for two years, and shall be a licensed attorney in this state who has been actively engaged in the practice of law or has been a judge of a court in this state, or both combined, for four years prior to the judge's appointment or election.
 - (b) When this court is created, the governor shall appoint a judge to the county court at law, who shall serve until the next general election after he or she takes office, and until his or her successor is elected and has qualified. Beginning at the general election in 1982 and every fourth year thereafter, there shall be elected by the qualified voters of Medina County a judge of the county court at law for a regular term of four years as provided by Article V, Section 30, and Article XVI, Section 65, of the Texas Constitution.
 - (c) After the initial appointment, a vacancy occurring in the office of the judge of the county court at law shall be filled by the Commissioners Court of Medina County, and the appointee shall hold office until the next general election and until his or her successor is elected and has qualified.
- 25 (d) The judge of the county court at law shall execute a 26 hond and take the oath of office prescribed by law for county 27 judges. The judge may be removed from office in the same manner

1 and for the same causes as a county judge.

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- (e) The judge of the county court at law shall receive a salary to be set by the commissioners court and to be paid out of 3 the county treasury by the commissioners court. The salary shall be paid in equal monthly installments. The judge of the county court at law shall be entitled to traveling expenses and necessary 7 office expenses, including administrative and clerical help, in the same manner as is allowed the county judge. The judge of the 8 county court at law shall assess the same fees as are now 9 prescribed or may be established by law, relating to the county 10 judge's fees, all of which shall be collected by the clerk of the 11 12 court and shall be paid into the county treasury on collection, and 13 no part of which shall be paid to the judge.
 - qualifications as the regular judge may be appointed or elected in the manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special county judge. If a judge of the county court at law is disqualified to try a case pending in his or her court, the parties or their attorneys may agree on the selection of a special judge for the case. A special judge is entitled to the same rate of compensation as the regular judge.
 - SECTION 5. PERSONNEL. (a) The county attorney, county clerk, and sheriff of Medina County shall serve as county attorney, clerk, and sheriff, respectively, for the county court at law, except that the district clerk of Medina County shall serve as clerk of the county court at law in cases enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act and shall establish a separate docket for the

county court at law. These officials, either personally or by the appointment of a deputy or assistant, shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their office and are entitled to the compensation, fees, and allowances prescribed by law for their respective offices. The commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the court.

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(b) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter who shall have the same qualifications and whose duties shall in every respect be as provided by law for official court reporters. The official court reporter is entitled to the compensation fixed by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF CASES AND JUDGES. (a) As soon as practicable after this court is created, the county clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the county court, and snall transfer those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act, and the district clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the district courts of Medina County and may transfer a sufficient number of those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act to equalize the dockets. Equalization of case load shall be the primary objective in establishing the initial case docket for the county court at law.

(b) The judge of the county court and the judge of the county court at law may transfer cases to and from the dockets of their respective courts, in matters within their jurisdiction, in

order that the business may be equally distributed between them.

All cases of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act may be instituted in or transferred between the district courts of Medina County and the County Court at Law of Medina County. However, no case may be transferred from one court to another without the consent of the judge of the court to which it is transferred, and no case may be transferred unless it is within the jurisdiction of the court to which it is transferred.

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- of this section to the county court at law, and in cases transferred to any of the courts in Medina County by order of the judge of another court, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued or made in the cases shall be returned to and filed in the court to which the transfer is made. All bonds executed and recognizances entered into in those cases shall bind the parties for their appearance or to fulfill the obligations of the bonds or recognizances at the terms of the court to which the cases are transferred as fixed by law. All processes issued or returned before transfer of the cases, as well as all bonds and recognizances taken before transfer, shall be valid and binding as though originally issued out of the court to which the transfer is made.
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 24 law may freely exchange benches and courtrooms with each other in
 25 matters within their jurisdiction so that if one is ill,
 26 disqualified, or otherwise absent, the other may hold court for him
 27 or her without the necessity of transferring the case involved.

Either judge may hear all or any part of a case pending in the 1 2 county court or county court at law, but only in matters within 3 their jurisdiction, and may rule and enter orders on and continue, determine, or render judgment on all or any part of the case without the necessity of transferring it to his or her own docket. However, a judge may not sit or act in a case unless it is within b the jurisdiction of his or her court. Each judgment and order 7 shall be entered in the minutes of the court in which the case is 8 The provisions providing for the exchange of benches by 10 and between the judges are cumulative of and in addition to the 11 provisions herein provided for the selection and appointment of a 12 special judge of the county court at law.

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SECTION 7. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. (a) Practice in the county court at law shall conform to that prescribed by general law for county courts, except that practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in the county court at law involving those matters of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and the laws and rules pertaining to district courts, general or special, as well as county courts. If a case enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

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- 2 judge of the county court at law, be made available and shall serve
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- 16 and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
- 17 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
- 18 constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several
- days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended,
- and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its
- 21 passage, and it is so enacted.

1	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1
2	Amend House Bill No. 2176 by deleting the figure "\$5,000" on page
3	1, line 19, and substituting the figure "\$20,000".
4	Allred
5	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 2
6	Amend House Bill No. 2176 by inserting in Section 4(e), on page 4,
7	line 4, after the word "court", the words "in an amount not to
8	exceed 90% of the amount paid a district judge having jurisdiction
9	in Medina County".
0	Allred

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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT



1st. Printing

By Rains

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H.B. No. 2176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

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- (b) The County Court at Law of Medina County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$5,000, exclusive of interest, as provided by general law.
- (c) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County Court at Law of Medina County by the other provisions of this Act, the county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts in Medina County in suits and causes involving

family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal of disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent actions involving controversies between parent and child and between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Medina County, and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts.

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continuous terms which commence on the first Monday in January and on the first Monday in July of each year. Each term of court continues until the next succeeding term begins.

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and for the same causes as a county judge.

- salary to be set by the commissioners court and to be paid out of the county treasury by the commissioners court. The salary shall be paid in equal monthly installments. The judge of the county court at law shall be entitled to traveling expenses and necessary office expenses, including administrative and clerical help, in the same manner as is allowed the county judge. The judge of the county court at law shall assess the same fees as are now prescribed or may be established by law, relating to the county judge's fees, all of which shall be collected by the clerk of the court and shall be paid into the county treasury on collection, and no part of which shall be paid to the judge.
- (f) A special judge of the county court at law with the same qualifications as the regular judge may be appointed or elected in the manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special county judge. If a judge of the county court at law is disqualified to try a case pending in his or her court, the parties or their attorneys may agree on the selection of a special judge for the case. A special judge is entitled to the same rate of compensation as the regular judge.
- SECTION 5. PERSONNEL. (a) The county attorney, county clerk, and sheriff of Medina County shall serve as county attorney, clerk, and sheriff, respectively, for the county court at law, except that the district clerk of Medina County shall serve as clerk of the county court at law in cases enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act and shall establish a separate docket for the

- county court at law. These officials, either personally or by the appointment of a deputy or assistant, shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their office and are entitled to the compensation, fees, and allowances prescribed by law for their respective offices. The commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the court.
- (b) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter who shall have the same qualifications and whose duties shall in every respect be as provided by law for official court reporters. The official court reporter is entitled to the compensation fixed by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.

- SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF CASES AND JUDGES. (a) As soon as practicable after this court is created, the county clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the county court, and shall transfer those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act, and the district clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the district courts of Medina County and may transfer a sufficient number of those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act to equalize the dockets. Equalization of case load shall be the primary objective in establishing the initial case docket for the county court at law.
- (b) The judge of the county court and the judge of the county court at law may transfer cases to and from the dockets of their respective courts, in matters within their jurisdiction, in

order that the business may be equally distributed between them.

All cases of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act may be instituted in or transferred between the district courts of Medina County and the County Court at Law of Medina County. However, no case may be transferred from one court to another without the consent of the judge of the court to which it is transferred, and no case may be transferred unless it is within the jurisdiction of the court to which it is transferred.

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- (c) On the transfer of all cases specified in Subsection (a) this section to the county court at law, and in of transferred to any of the courts in Medina County by order of the judge of another court, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued or made in the cases shall be returned to and filed in the court to which the transfer is made. All bonds executed and recognizances entered into in those cases shall bind the parties for their appearance or to fulfill the obligations of the bonds or recognizances at the terms of the court to which the cases are transferred as fixed by law. All processes issued or returned before transfer of the cases, as well as all bonds recognizances taken before transfer, shall be valid and binding as though originally issued out of the court to which the transfer is made.
- 23 (d) The county judge and the judge of the county court at
 24 law may freely exchange benches and courtrooms with each other in
 25 matters within their jurisdiction so that if one is ill,
 26 disqualified, or otherwise absent, the other may hold court for him
 27 or her without the necessity of transferring the case involved.

Either judge may hear all or any part of a case pending in the county court or county court at law, but only in matters within 2 their jurisdiction, and may rule and enter orders on and continue, determine, or render judgment on all or any part of the without the necessity of transferring it to his or her own docket. However, a judge may not sit or act in a case unless it is within the jurisdiction of his or her court. Each judgment and order 7 shall be entered in the minutes of the court in which the case is The provisions providing for the exchange of benches by and between the judges are cumulative of and in addition to 10 provisions herein provided for the selection and appointment of a 11 12 special judge of the county court at law.

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SECTION 7. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. (a) Practice in county court at law shall conform to that prescribed by general law for county courts, except that practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in the county court at law involving those matters of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and the laws and rules pertaining district courts, general or special, as well as county courts. a case enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

- (b) The laws which govern the drawing, selection, service, and pay of jurors for county courts apply to the county court at law.
- (c) Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district

- 1 court or courts may, on request of either the county judge or the
- 2 judge of the county court at law, be made available and shall serve
- for the week in either the county court or county court at law.
- 4 SECTION 8. COURTROOM. The commissioners court shall furnish
- 5 and equip a suitable courtroom and office space for the court
- 6 created by this Act.
- 7 SECTION 9. SEAL. The seal of the court created by this Act
- 8 shall be the same as that provided by law for county courts, except
- 9 the seal shall contain the words "County Court at Law of Medina
- 10 County."
- 11 SECTION 10. DATE OF CREATION. The County Court at Law of
- 12 Medina County is created on January 1, 1980, or on a date
- determined by the commissioners court by an order entered on its
- 14 minutes, whichever date is earlier.
- SECTION 11. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation
- 16 and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
- 17 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
- 18 constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several
- days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended,
- and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its
- 21 passage, and it is so enacted.

1	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1
2	Amend House Bill No. 2176 by deleting the figure "\$5,000" on page
3	1, line 19, and substituting the figure "\$20,000".
4	Allred
5	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 2
	Amend House Bill No. 2176 by inserting in Section 4(e), on page 4,
201	line 4, after the word "court", the words "in an amount not to exceed 90% of the amount paid a district judge having jurisdiction
9	in Medina County".
10	Allred

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Honorable Bill Clayton Speaker of the House of Representatives

May 1 1979

Sir:						
We, your COMMITTEE ON JUDI have had the same under considerate	CIAL AFFAIRS tion and beg to report bac		m was referred // tion that it (<u>13 2176</u> measure)		
do pass, without amendment. do pass, with amendment(s). do pass and be not printed; a Complete Committee Substitute is recommended in lieu of the original measure.						
A fiscal note was requested on		and is attached as part o	of this report.			
Author's fiscal statement attached.	(date)	-				
The Committee recommends that t		the Local Consent? Ca	alendar.			
This measure () prop	oses new law. nds existing law.					
House Sponsor of Senate Measure	<u>-</u>					
The measure was reported from Co	ommittee by the following	y vote:				
	AYE	NAY	PNV	ABSENT		
Bird, Ch.						
Hill, Anita, V.C.				ļ		
Heatly, V.C.A.				V		
Alfred	/					
Barrientos						
Donaldson						
Gaston				<u>, </u>		
Hudson						
Polk			1	,		
Reyes						
Whitmire	V					
				1		
				1		
Total: aye						
nay				2		
present, not voting			CHAIRMAN	^^		
			\mathcal{D}_{a}	, () ()		
absent			1 Cly	nace		

H.B. 2176 AUTHOR: RAINS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Medina County has experienced growth to the extent that another court is viewed as desirable.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

To create the County Court at Law of Medina County.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1: Creates the County Court at Law of Medina County.
- Section 2; Grants jurisdiction to the County Court at Law for Medina County of all matters concurrent with the County Court of Medina County with the exception of the jurisdiction of the Commissioners Court of Medina County. This section also grants this court concurrent jurisdiction with district courts in civil matters where the controversy involves sums between \$500 and \$5,000.
 - Section 3: Sets out the terms of the court.
- Section 4: Sets out the requirements of office of the judge of the County Court at Law of Medina County. This judge will be appointed by the Governor and then this judge will be elected in the next general election following the appointment. At the general election of 1983, this position converts to a four year term of office. Any vacancy in this position shall be filled by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.
- Section 5: Stipulates what personnel may be used by this court.
- Section 6: Allows for transferability of cases and exchange of benches if requested by either judge of the two county courts.
- Section 7: Requires that practice in the County Court at Law shall conform to that prescribed by general law.
- Section 8: Requires that the Commissioners Court of Medina County provide suitable facilities for the court.
 - Section 9: Provides for a seal of this court.
- Section 10: Stipulates that the County Court at Law for Medina County shall be created January 1, 1978 or a date earlier if determined by the Commissioners Court.
 - Section 11: Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTION

Public notice was posted in accordance with Rule V, Section 14, Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives and a public hearing was held on 5/1/79.

On the same date the full committee voted to report HB 2176 to the House with two amendments and the recommendation that it do pass by a record vote of $\underline{\text{six}}$ ayes and $\underline{\text{no}}$ nays.

Committee amendment no. 1 increases jurisdiction to \$20,000.

Committee amendment no. 2 limits salary paid to 90% of that paid the district judge.

No witnesses testified on this bill.

DON RAINS DISTRICT 45 BANDERA, BLANCO, BEXAR (N.W. part) FRIO, HAYS, KENDALL AND MEDINA COUNTIES



State of Texas House of Representatives Austin

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

AUSTIN ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2910 AUSTIN, TEXAS 7876

May 1, 1979

P.O. BOX 1348 SAN MARCOS, TEXAS 78666

The Honorable Ron Bird Chairman Committee on Judicial Affairs House of Representatives

Re: H.B. 2176

Dear Chairman Bird:

Pursuant to House Rule 5, Section 28(c), I find the fiscal implications to the local government (specifically Medina County) to be as follows:

1979....\$55,000

1980....\$60,000

1981....\$60,000

1982....\$60,000

1983....\$60,000

In addition, there will be additional first year costs for setting up and equipping the court that cannot be accurately projected.

The above costs would continue for as long as the court is in existence.

Best personal regards,

DR:pm

BY: Allred

AMEND HOUSE BILL 2176 by deleting the figure "\$5,000" on page 1, line 19, and substituting the figure "\$20,000".

ADOPTED

MAY 12 1079

Musey
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

BY: Alled

AMEND HOUSE BILL 2176 by inserting in Section 4(e), on page 4, line 4, after the word "court", the words "in an amount not to exceed 90% of the amount paid a district judge having jurisdiction in Medina County".

ADOPTED

MAY 12 1979

Chief Clerk

By Rains

H.B. No. 2176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. CREATION. The County Court at Law of Medina
5	County is created on the date determined by Section 10 of this Act.
6	SECTION 2. JURISDICTION. (a) The County Court at Law of
7	Medina County has jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings,
8	civil and criminal, juvenile and probate, original and appellate,
9	prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state for
10	county courts, and its jurisdiction is concurrent with the
11	jurisdiction of the County Court of Medina County. It does not
12	have jurisdiction over causes and proceedings concerning roads,
13 • -	bridges, and public highways and the general administration of
14	county business which is now within the jurisdiction of the
15	Commissioners Court of Medina County.
16	(b) The County Court at Law of Medina County has
17	jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain

(c) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County Court at Law of Medina County by the other provisions of this Act, the county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts in Medina County in suits and causes involving

cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds

\$500 and does not exceed \$20,000, exclusive of interest, as

provided by general law.

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family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal of disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent actions involving controversies between parent and child and between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Medina County, and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts.

(d) The county court at law, or its judge, has the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, certiorari, supersedeas, and all writs necessary for the enforcement of the jurisdiction of the court. It may issue writs of habeas corpus in cases where the offense charged is within the jurisdiction of the court or of any other court of inferior jurisdiction in the county. The court and judge have the power to punish for contempt as prescribed by law for county courts. The judge of the county court at law has all other powers, duties, immunities, and privileges provided by law for county court judges, except that such judge of the county court at law shall in no way have any authority over the administrative business of Medina County which is now performed by the county judge of Medina County.

SECTION 3. TERMS. The county court at law shall hold two

- 1 continuous terms which commence on the first Monday in January and
- 2 on the first Monday in July of each year. Each term of court
- 3 continues until the next succeeding term begins.
- 4 SECTION 4. JUDGE. (a) The judge of the county court at law
- 5 shall be a qualified voter in Medina County, shall have been a
- 6 resident of Medina County for two years, and shall be a licensed
- 7 attorney in this state who has been actively engaged in the
- 8 practice of law or has been a judge of a court in this state, or
- 9 both combined, for four years prior to the judge's appointment or
- 10 election.
- 11 (b) When this court is created, the governor shall appoint a
- judge to the county court at law, who shall serve until the next
- general election after he or she takes office, and until his or her
- 14 successor is elected and has qualified. Beginning at the general
- election in 1982 and every fourth year thereafter, there shall be
- 16 elected by the qualified voters of Medina County a judge of the
- 17 county court at law for a regular term of four years as provided by
- 18 Article V, Section 30, and Article XVI, Section 65, of the Texas
- 19 Constitution.
- 20 (c) After the initial appointment, a vacancy occurring in
- 21 the office of the judge of the county court at law shall be filled
- 22 by the Commissioners Court of Medina County, and the appointee
- 23 shall hold office until the next general election and until his or
- 24 her successor is elected and has qualified.
- 25 (d) The judge of the county court at law shall execute a
- 26 bond and take the oath of office prescribed by law for county
- 27 judges. The judge may be removed from office in the same manner

1 and for the same causes as a county judge.

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- 2 (e) The judge of the county court at law shall receive a salary to be set by the commissioners court and to be paid out of 3 the county treasury by the commissioners court in an amount not to exceed 90 percent of the amount paid a district judge having 5 jurisdiction in Medina County. The salary shall be paid in equal 6 monthly installments. The judge of the county court at law shall 7 8 be entitled to traveling expenses and necessary office expenses, 9 including administrative and clerical help, in the same manner as is allowed the county judge. The judge of the county court at law 10 11 shall assess the same fees as are now prescribed or may be 12 established by law, relating to the county judge's fees, all of 13 which shall be collected by the clerk of the court and shall be 14 paid into the county treasury on collection, and no part of which 15 shall be paid to the judge.
 - (f) A special judge of the county court at law with the same qualifications as the regular judge may be appointed or elected in the manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a special county judge. If a judge of the county court at law is disqualified to try a case pending in his or her court, the parties or their attorneys may agree on the selection of a special judge for the case. A special judge is entitled to the same rate of compensation as the regular judge.
- SECTION 5. PERSONNEL. (a) The county attorney, county
 clerk, and sheriff of Medina County shall serve as county attorney,
 clerk, and sheriff, respectively, for the county court at law,
 except that the district clerk of Medina County shall serve as

clerk of the county court at law in cases enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act and shall establish a separate docket for the county court at law. These officials, either personally or by the appointment of a deputy or assistant, shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their office and are entitled to the compensation, fees, and allowances prescribed by law for their respective offices. The commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the court.

(b) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter who shall have the same qualifications and whose duties shall in every respect be as provided by law for official court reporters. The official court reporter is entitled to the compensation fixed by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF CASES AND JUDGES. (a) As soon as practicable after this court is created, the county clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the county court, and shall transfer those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act, and the district clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the district courts of Medina County and may transfer a sufficient number of those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act to equalize the dockets. Equalization of case load shall be the primary objective in establishing the initial case docket for the county court at law.

(b) The judge of the county court and the judge of the

county court at law may transfer cases to and from the dockets of their respective courts, in matters within their jurisdiction, order that the business may be equally distributed between them. All cases of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) this Act may be instituted in or transferred between the district courts of Medina County and the County Court at Law of Medina County. However, no case may be transferred from one court to another without the consent of the judge of the court to which it is transferred, and no case may be transferred unless it is within the jurisdiction of the court to which it is transferred.

- (c) On the transfer of all cases specified in Subsection (a) of this section to the county court at law, and in cases transferred to any of the courts in Medina County by order of the judge of another court, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued or made in the cases shall be returned to and filed in the court to which the transfer is made. All bonds executed and recognizances entered into in those cases shall bind the parties for their appearance or to fulfill the obligations of the bonds or recognizances at the terms of the court to which the cases are transferred as fixed by law. All processes issued or returned before transfer of the cases, as well as all bonds and recognizances taken before transfer, shall be valid and binding as though originally issued out of the court to which the transfer is made.
- 25 (d) The county judge and the judge of the county court at
 26 law may freely exchange benches and courtrooms with each other in
 27 matters within their jurisdiction so that if one is ill,

disgualified, or otherwise absent, the other may hold court for him or her without the necessity of transferring the case involved. Either judge may hear all or any part of a case pending in the county court or county court at law, but only in matters within their jurisdiction, and may rule and enter orders on and continue, determine, or render judgment on all or any part of the case without the necessity of transferring it to his or her own docket. However, a judge may not sit or act in a case unless it is within the jurisdiction of his or her court. Each judgment and order shall be entered in the minutes of the court in which the case is pending. The provisions providing for the exchange of benches by and between the judges are cumulative of and in addition to the provisions herein provided for the selection and appointment of a special judge of the county court at law.

SECTION 7. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. (a) Practice in the county court at law shall conform to that prescribed by general law for county courts, except that practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in the county court at law involving those matters of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and the laws and rules pertaining to district courts, general or special, as well as county courts. If a case enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

(b) The laws which govern the drawing, selection, service, and pay of jurors for county courts apply to the county court at

- 1 law.
- 2 (c) Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district
- 3 court or courts may, on request of either the county judge or the
- 4 judge of the county court at law, be made available and shall serve
- 5 for the week in either the county court or county court at law.
- 6 SECTION 8. COURTROOM. The commissioners court shall furnish
- 7 and equip a suitable courtroom and office space for the court
- 8 created by this Act.
- 9 SECTION 9. SEAL. The seal of the court created by this Act
- shall be the same as that provided by law for county courts, except
- 11 the seal shall contain the words "County Court at Law of Medina
- 12 County."
- 13 SECTION 10. DATE OF CREATION. The County Court at Law of
- 14 Medina County is created on January 1, 1980, or on a date
- determined by the commissioners court by an order entered on its
- 16 minutes, whichever date is earlier.
- 17 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation
- and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
- 19 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
- 20 constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several
- 21 days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended,
- 22 and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its
- 23 passage, and it is so enacted.

COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

	5/ 12 /79
	Date of report to Senate
Ionorable William P. Hobby resident of the Senate	
ir:	
We, your Committee on <u>Intergovernmental Relations</u> HB. No. 2176 have had the same under consideration, and I	to which was referred
with the recommendation that it dopass	am instructed to report it back to the Senate and be printed.
In Such	2~
Chairman	

Paper clip the original and one copy of this form to the original bill and retain one copy for your file.

REQUEST FOR LOCAL & UNCONTESTED CALENDAR PLACEMENT

Hon. Gene Jones, Chairman Administration Committee

Sir:

Pursuant to S. R. 16, notice is hereby given that HB 2176 by: Rains (Traeger)

was heard by the Committee on <u>Intergovernmental Relations</u> on <u>5/17</u>,1979, and reported out with the recommendation that it be placed on the Local and Uncontested Calendar.

Chairman of the reporting committee

IMPORTANT: THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO A PRINTED COPY OF THE BILL OR RESOLUTION, WHICH ALONG WITH 7 ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE BILL OR RESOLUTION SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION, ROOM G-27J. PLEASE CALL 5-1134 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING BILLS FOR THE LOCAL CALENDAR IS 6:00 P.M. MONDAYS.

F

ENRULLED

H.B. No. 2176

1 AN ACT 2 relating to creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. CREATION. The County Court at Law of Medina County is created on the date determined by Section 10 of this Act. 5 SECTION 2. JURISDICTION. (a) The County Court at Law of 7 Medina County has jurisdiction over all causes and proceedings, civil and criminal, juvenile and probate, original and appellate, prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state for 9 10 county courts, and its jurisdiction is concurrent with 11 jurisdiction of the County Court of Medina County. It does not have jurisdiction over causes and proceedings concerning roads, 12 bridges, and public highways and the general administration of 13 county business which is now within the jurisdiction of 14 15 Commissioners Court of Medina County. 16 (b) The County Court at Law of Medina County

(b) The County Court at Law of Medina County has jurisdiction concurrent with the district court in eminent domain cases and in civil cases when the matter in controversy exceeds \$500 and does not exceed \$20,000, exclusive of interest, as provided by general law.

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(c) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred on the County
Court at Law of Medina County by the other provisions of this Act,
the county court at law has concurrent jurisdiction with the
district courts in Medina County in suits and causes involving

family law matters, including adoptions; birth records; removal of disability of minority or coverture; change of name of persons; divorce and marriage annulment cases, including the adjustment of property rights, custody and support of minor children involved, temporary support pending final hearing, and every other matter incident to divorce or annulment proceedings; and independent actions involving child welfare, custody, support and reciprocal support, dependency, neglect, and delinquency; and independent actions involving controversies between parent and child and between husband and wife. The provisions in this subsection do not diminish the jurisdiction of the district courts in Medina County, and the district courts shall retain and continue to exercise the jurisdiction that is conferred by law on district courts.

(d) The county court at law, or its judge, has the power to issue writs of injunction, mandamus, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, certiorari, supersedeas, and all writs necessary for the enforcement of the jurisdiction of the court. It may issue writs of habeas corpus in cases where the offense charged is within the jurisdiction of the court or of any other court of inferior jurisdiction in the county. The court and judge have the power to punish for contempt as prescribed by law for county courts. The judge of the county court at law has all other powers, duties, immunities, and privileges provided by law for county court judges, except that such judge of the county court at law shall in no way have any authority over the administrative business of Medina County which is now performed by the county judge of Medina County.

SECTION 3. TERMS. The county court at law shall hold two

- 1 continuous terms which commence on the first Monday in January and
- on the first Monday in July of each year. Each term of court
- 3 continues until the next succeeding term begins.
- 4 SECTION 4. JUDGE. (a) The judge of the county court at law
- 5 shall be a qualified voter in Medina County, shall have been a
- 6 resident of Medina County for two years, and shall be a licensed
- 7 attorney in this state who has been actively engaged in the
- 8 practice of law or has been a judge of a court in this state, or
- 9 both combined, for four years prior to the judge's appointment or
- 10 election.
- 11 (b) When this court is created, the governor shall appoint a
- 12 judge to the county court at law, who shall serve until the next
- general election after he or she takes office, and until his or her
- 14 successor is elected and has qualified. Beginning at the general
- election in 1982 and every fourth year thereafter, there shall be
- 16 elected by the qualified voters of Medina County a judge of the
- 17 county court at law for a regular term of four years as provided by
- 18 Article V, Section 30, and Article XVI, Section 65, of the Texas
- 19 Constitution.
- 20 (c) After the initial appointment, a vacancy occurring in
- 21 the office of the judge of the county court at law shall be filled
- 22 by the Commissioners Court of Medina County, and the appointee
- 23 shall hold office until the next general election and until his or
- 24 her successor is elected and has qualified.
- 25 (d) The judge of the county court at law shall execute a
- 26 bond and take the oath of office prescribed by law for county
- 27 judges. The judge may be removed from office in the same manner

- 1 and for the same causes as a county judge.
- 2 (e) The judge of the county court at law shall receive a salary to be set by the commissioners court and to be paid out of 3 the county treasury by the commissioners court in an amount not to 4 exceed 90 percent of the amount paid a district judge having 5 jurisdiction in Medina County. The salary shall be paid in equal 6 monthly installments. The judge of the county court at law shall 7 be entitled to traveling expenses and necessary office expenses, 8 9 including administrative and clerical help, in the same manner as is allowed the county judge. The judge of the county court at law 10 shall assess the same fees as are now prescribed or may be 11 12 established by law, relating to the county judge's fees, all which shall be collected by the clerk of the court and shall be 13 paid into the county treasury on collection, and no part of which 14 shall be paid to the judge. 15
- 16 (f) A special judge of the county court at law with the same 17 qualifications as the regular judge may be appointed or elected in the manner provided by law for the appointment or election of a 18 special county judge. If a judge of the county court at law is 19 20 disqualified to try a case pending in his or her court, the parties 21 or their attorneys may agree on the selection of a special judge for the case. A special judge is entitled to the same rate of 22 compensation as the regular judge. 23
- SECTION 5. PERSONNEL. (a) The county attorney, county

 clerk, and sheriff of Medina County shall serve as county attorney,

 clerk, and sheriff, respectively, for the county court at law,

 except that the district clerk of Medina County shall serve as

clerk of the county court at law in cases enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act and shall establish a separate docket for the county court at law. These officials, either personally or by the appointment of a deputy or assistant, shall perform the duties and responsibilities of their office and are entitled to the compensation, fees, and allowances prescribed by law for their respective offices. The commissioners court may employ as many deputy sheriffs and bailiffs as are necessary to serve the court.

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(b) The judge of the county court at law shall appoint an official court reporter who shall have the same qualifications and whose duties shall in every respect be as provided by law for official court reporters. The official court reporter is entitled to the compensation fixed by the Commissioners Court of Medina County.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER OF CASES AND JUDGES. (a) As soon as practicable after this court is created, the county clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the county court, and shall transfer those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act, and the district clerk shall establish a separate docket for the court created by this Act from among pending matters filed originally in the district courts of Medina County and may transfer a sufficient number of those matters to the docket of the court created by this Act to equalize the dockets. Equalization of case load shall be the primary objective in establishing the initial case docket for the county court at law.

(b) The judge of the county court and the judge of the

county court at law may transfer cases to and from the dockets of 1 their respective courts, in matters within their jurisdiction, 2 3 order that the business may be equally distributed between them. All cases of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) 5 this Act may be instituted in or transferred between the district courts of Medina County and the County Court at Law of Medina 7 County. However, no case may be transferred from one court to another without the consent of the judge of the court to which it 8 9 is transferred, and no case may be transferred unless it is within 10 the jurisdiction of the court to which it is transferred.

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- (c) On the transfer of all cases specified in Subsection (a) of this section to the county court at law, and in transferred to any of the courts in Medina County by order of the judge of another court, all processes, writs, bonds, recognizances, or other obligations issued or made in the cases shall be returned to and filed in the court to which the transfer is made. All bonds executed and recognizances entered into in those cases shall bind the parties for their appearance or to fulfill the obligations the bonds or recognizances at the terms of the court to which the cases are transferred as fixed by law. All processes issued or returned before transfer of the cases, as well as all bonds and recognizances taken before transfer, shall be valid and binding though originally issued out of the court to which the transfer is made.
- 25 (d) The county judge and the judge of the county court at
 26 law may freely exchange benches and courtrooms with each other in
 27 matters within their jurisdiction so that if one is ill,

disqualified, or otherwise absent, the other may hold court for him 1 2 or her without the necessity of transferring the case involved. Either judge may hear all or any part of a case pending in 3 county court or county court at law, but only in matters within 5 their jurisdiction, and may rule and enter orders on and continue, 6 determine, or render judgment on all or any part of the case 7 without the necessity of transferring it to his or her own docket. 8 However, a judge may not sit or act in a case unless it is within Q the jurisdiction of his or her court. Each judgment and order be entered in the minutes of the court in which the case is 10 pending. The provisions providing for the exchange of benches 11 12 and between the judges are cumulative of and in addition to the provisions herein provided for the selection and appointment 13 special judge of the county court at law. 14

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SECTION 7. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. (a) Practice in the county court at law shall conform to that prescribed by general law for county courts, except that practice and procedure, rules of evidence, issuance of process and writs, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of trials and hearings in the county court at law involving those matters of concurrent jurisdiction enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and the laws and rules pertaining to district courts, general or special, as well as county courts. If a case enumerated in Section 2(c) of this Act is tried before a jury, the jury shall be composed of 12 members.

(b) The laws which govern the drawing, selection, service, and pay of jurors for county courts apply to the county court at

- 1 law.
- 2 (c) Jurors regularly impaneled for a week by the district
- 3 court or courts may, on request of either the county judge or the
- 4 judge of the county court at law, be made available and shall serve
- for the week in either the county court or county court at law.
- 6 SECTION 8. COURTROOM. The commissioners court shall furnish
- 7 and equip a suitable courtroom and office space for the court
- 8 created by this Act.
- 9 SECTION 9. SEAL. The seal of the court created by this Act
- shall be the same as that provided by law for county courts, except
- ii the seal shall contain the words "County Court at Law of Medina
- 12 County."
- 13 SECTION 10. DATE OF CREATION. The County Court at Law of
- 14 Medina County is created on January 1, 1980, or on a date
- determined by the commissioners court by an order entered on its
- 16 minutes, whichever date is earlier.
- 17 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation
- and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an
- 19 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the
- 20 constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several
- 21 days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended,
- 22 and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its
- 23 passage, and it is so enacted.

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Preside	ent of the Senate	Speaker of the House
		2176 was passed by the House on May
12, 1979, b	y a non-record vote	•
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		Chief Clerk of the House
I ce	ertify that H.B. No.	2176 was passed by the Senate on May
24, 1979, b	y the following vot	e: Yeas 31, Nays O.
		Secretary of the Senate
APPROVED:		
	Date	
	Governor	

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MALES.	No.		•	<i>7.7</i> ~
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Ву_	Name

	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
	AN ACT
relating to	creation of the County Court at Law of Medina County.
APR 2 1979	_ 1. Filed with the Chief Clerk.
APR 2 1979	- 2. Real first - time - and Referred to Committee on
MAY 1 1979	MAY 3 1979 - 3. Reported favorably (as amended) and sent to Printer at 2:25 PM.
MAY 4 1979	(time) 4. Printed and distributed at
MAY 4 1979	5. Sent to Committee on Calendars at
MAY 1.2 1979	- 6. Read second time (amended) passed to third reading (failed) by (Non-Record Vote) (Record Vote of year, neys,
	Motion to reconsider and table the vote by which H. Bwas ordered engrossed prevailed (failed) by a (Non-Record Vote) (Record Vote ofyeas,nays, andpresent, not voting).
	8. Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days suspended (failed to suspend) by a four-fifths vote of yeas, nays, and present, not voting.
MAY 12 1979	9. Read third time (ametifled); finally passed (failed) by (Non-Record Vote) (Repord Vote) yeas present, not voting).

		_ 10.	Caption ordered amended to conform to body of bill.	
		11.	Motion to reconsider and table the vote by which H. B prevailed (failed) by a (Non-Record) (Record Vote of nays, and present, not voting).	
MAY 12	2 1979	_12.	Ordered Engrossed at 10:27 A-M. (time)	
MAY :	1 4 1979	_ 13.	Engrossed.	
MAY 1	4 197 5	_ 14.	Returned to Chief Clerk at	
MAY 1 4	1979	- 15.	Returned to Chief Clerk at 8:00 A.M. (time) Sent to Senate. Betty Mussay	
MAV (A 10			Chief Clerk of the Hou	
MAY 14 19	1979		Received from the House	al relations
MAY 2 2		_ 18.	Reported favorably	
		_1 9.	Reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute; Committee time.	nittee Substitute read
MAY 22	1973	- 20.	Ordered not printed,	
		21.	Regular order of business suspended by	
			(a viva voce vote.) (yeas,	, nays.)

	22. To permit consideration, reading and passage, Senate and Constitutional Rules			
MAY 2 4 1879	suspended by rose of	And the second s	9: 55	
	24. Caption ordered and dided to conform to body of bill.		A CONTROL TO CHANGE	
	25. Senate and Constitutional 3-Day Rules suspended by vote ofyeas,			
→MAY 2 4 1979	26. Read third time and passed by (a viva voce vote.) (yeas,			
OTHER ACTION:	Segretary of the spriate			
May 24, 1919	27. Returned to the House.			
MAY 24 1979	28. Received from the Senate (ARTH Line 12). 29. House (Concurred) (Refused to Concur) in Senate Amendments by a (Non-Record Vote) (Record Vote of			
MAY 24 1979	Vote of yeas, nays, and present, not voting).			